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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 379. MAY, 1938.

HUMILITY. TOLERANCE. LOVE.

"The true spirit of Christ's message."—ROM LANDAU.

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ALL SOULS' CHURCH,
Elmwood Avenue, Belfast

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OF THEOLOGY
Berkeley, California

WHERE WE STAND.

The bond of union in this Church is religious sympathy, not doctrinal uniformity. Assent to any particular theological creed is neither expected nor desired. In the love of Truth and in the spirit of Toleration we unite for the Worship of God and the Service of Man. We stand for all those things which an enlightened conscience approves.

NOTES AND NEWS.

This month we would call attention to Rom Landau's new book, "Search for to-morrow." Rom Landau's books are best sellers. The motto of the present book is Rev. I., 19:—"Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and things which shall be hereafter." Rom Landau has proven himself to be a brilliant writer, yet it was as a sculptor that he began his career. Among his books are "God is My Adventure," "Seven," "Thy Kingdom Come." Not having read the Bible until nearly 30 years of age, the latter book tells of his own discovery of Christianity. The present book is an attempt to deal with "the true creeds of the leaders and the spiritual undercurrents inherent in the lives of various nations." His investigations have been in the new States that have sprung up in the Near East, "and because that has repeatedly been the cradle of Western civilization," he decided to start his quest in that critical part of the world. He received the support of the Governments of most of the countries which he visited, and was able

to meet nearly all the important figures who are shaping the future of the Near East. King Ibu Sa-ud met him in a special camp outside Mecca, where he discussed with him the relationship between faith and kingship. Quite a long list is given of Kings, and Presidents, Patriarchs, Bishops—Dictator of Greece, Mufti of Jerusalem, President of the Pan-Arab Congress, etc. He has done his work with great skill and considerable courage and the book arrives at a very appropriate moment—Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini are household names in these countries. Handsomely bound and beautifully illustrated, it is suitable for a gift or a prominent place in the bookcase. Fresh and new, it forms delightful reading.

* * *

The exterior of All Souls' appears on our front page. Religion finds expression not only in the written and spoken word, but in music and architecture, and "Architecture is frozen music." All Souls is the most exquisite gem of architecture in our churches in the United Kingdom, and the silent witness of "the Word made Stone," has a profound appeal to those whose temperament impels them to "worship in the beauty of holiness." An occasional friendly visit in the morning and evening would encourage the young minister there, as well as the congregation.

* * *

The annual meeting of the Sunday School Conference will be held at Banbridge on Saturday, June 4th, 1938. Banbridge is central for South Down, and it is to be hoped that there will be a large attendance.

* * *

The 318th meeting of the Ministers' Conference was held on Monday, April 4th, at the Manse, Crumlin, Co. Antrim. The Rev. and Mrs. J. Hinkins were the host and hostess. A very delightful afternoon was spent, the ministers adjourning after tea to Lough Neagh, where they watched the aeroplanes bombing on the targets floating in the Lough. There was a very full attendance, and the host and hostess were very cordially thanked for the kind way in which they had received the company.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

BELFAST FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

CONCLUSION OF REV. R. NICOL CROSS' MINISTRY.

Farewell Meeting and Sermons.

A farewell meeting and conversazione to Mr. and Mrs. Cross was held in Central, Hall, Belfast, on 22nd March, when there was a large gathering.

On the motion of Mr. R. M. Laird, Rev. J. Shaw Brown, Moderator of Antrim Presbytery, took the chair. Mr. Brown, who is an old class mate of Mr. Cross, called on Rev. J. Glynne Davies, who opened the meeting with prayer.

The Chairman thanked the Committee of First Church for giving him the opportunity of paying his tribute to his old class-mate and reminded the audience of many old doings in their college days.

Prof. Gregg-Wilson of Queen's University, also spoke of the work on charitable boards outside his ministerial duties in which Mr. Cross had engaged and the appreciation of the outside public.

Mrs. Hume then made a presentation of an eight-day Grandfather Clock to Mrs. Cross and a Leather Blotter containing cheque to Mr. Cross, and expressed in felicitous terms the mind of the congregation, which had been by the selection of their minister to such an important appointment as the Principalship of Manchester College, Oxford. She voiced the regret of the congregation at losing Mr. Cross, and also the appreciation of the work that he and Mrs. Cross had done during their ten years residence with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Cross thanked the congregation for their gift.

A very fine musical programme was arranged by Mr. Albert Taylor. Votes of thanks to all friends who had arranged the meeting and especially to the musical friends concluded the meeting.

Farewell sermons were preached morning and evening, on Sunday, 27th March, to large and appreciative congregations.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

REPORTS.

Women's League.

The annual meeting of the Ulster District was held in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast. Mrs. Gardiner, B.A. (president), who was in the chair, was appointed delegate to the General Assembly meetings to be held in Leeds. Tea was served to about eighty members from branches in Antrim and Down.

The meeting was preceded by a service in the church, conducted by Mrs. Hinkins, wife of the Crumlin minister, who gave a very fine and helpful address. Miss M'Ninch, of Larne, presided at the organ.

Raloo.

The ladies of this congregation in co-operation with the committee of the Church, have organised a Centenary Sale of Work to be held in the New Orange Hall, Gleno, on Saturday afternoon, 28th May, for the purpose of raising some funds for the re-roofing of the Church, and re-decorating the interior, and installing a Heating Apparatus, etc.

A sum of at least £250 is required to carry out those repairs.

An appeal is made to other congregations for assistance to beautify this Old Meeting House which was opened for Public Worship by the late Rev. Dr. Montgomery, on Sunday, September 2nd, 1838.

Glenarm.

The installation of the Rev. Edgar Lockett, late of Holywood, Co. Down, will take place on April 27th, at 3 p.m.

(We regret that because of misunderstanding the wrong date was announced in our previous number.—Ed.)

Holywood.

Members of the congregation to the number of eighty gathered in the schoolroom after evening service, on March 27th, to say "Good-bye" to the Rev. and Mrs. Lockett, who have gone to Glenarm, Co. Antrim. They were presented with a wallet of notes and two electric lamps, as an appreciation of their services during the past 16½ years. Previously presentations of Miss Praeger's Sculpture "Two's Company," had been made by the scholars and teachers of the Sunday School, and a leather hand-bag by the Sewing Circle members. Governors of the Upper Sullivan School had also made presentations to Mr. and Mrs. Lockett in appreciation of Mr. Lockett's work for the board.—A.R.

Belfast York Street.

Since our last report the Dramatic Society presented the same Play which they had already given fourteen times, on three more nights. The last two were for the Royal Victoria Hospital and we are glad to know that the proceeds were about £25. We have been able to increase our contribution to the Orphan Society to £13. The Salvation Army received over £2 as a retiring collection. Another Cause which though not strictly of a religious nature benefited by several pounds as a result of Dr. Agnew's Lecture given in the Co-operative Hall. All these events took place inside a few weeks and we mention them as it has been said that York Street devotes its activities entirely to its own work. If it did so it might be excused as the sum of about £700 a year has to be raised to meet expenses and the feeling of the congregation is entirely against Sales of Work or anything of that nature.

Collections for the past quarter constitute a new record and it may be said that the average attendance has always exceeded the seating capacity of the Church and seats now remain always in the aisles. The smallness of our Church and Hall is nothing short of a tragedy. It not only reduces our possible congregation and our income but it gives endless work to our Societies. A dozen Dramatic productions yield what the same play would produce in two nights elsewhere. Our Sunday School has to be sacrificed to our Fellowship and we who have had to meet such a financial problem are probably the only Church in Ulster which has to turn away people who apart from being interested in our Church would automatically solve it for us.

Amongst interesting visitors recently has been Captain Diaz in charge of the Spanish ships in Belfast. On one occasion he addressed a group speaking in French with Dr. Agnew translating. We were also pleased with the cordial reception given to Dr. Agnew and Mr. Christie in St. Peter's Church Hall where Dr.

Agnew lectured to a united meeting of the Men's Clubs of St. Peter's and Ballynahinch Parish Church. They are to return as guests with St. Peter's to Ballynahinch. Old barriers are breaking down. Miss Kathleen McColgan, B.A. addressed a crowded meeting of the Fellowship on her expriences in Spain and we hope that we may be able later to give practical help to the Committee which has been set up for relief of war sufferers of which our minister is a vice-president.

Ulster District Women's League.

The annual meeting of the Ulster District was held on March 31st in the Central Hall, Belfast, when about eighty members from branches in Antrim and Down attended.

The following office bearers were elected:—President, Mrs. G. Gardiner, B.A., Holywood; Secretary, Mrs. Taggart, Belfast; Treasurer, Miss Laird, Belfast; Fellowship Secretary, Mrs G. Davies, Comber; Friendly Links, Mrs. E. Thompson, Ballygally; Publicity, Publications, Mrs. F. A. Robinson, Holywood. Mrs. Gardiner, President, was appointed delegate to the annual meeting at Leeds. A service was held in the First Church at 3 p.m., conducted by Mrs. Hinkins, wife of the Crumlin minister, who preachd a very fine sermon, taking as her text, "The Virtuous Woman." Miss McNinch of Larne, presided at the organ.—A.R.

Sunday School Committee.

We would like to remind our scholars that the essays for the annual competition are due to reach the Convener not later than Monday, 16th May. The results will be made known at the Sunday School Conference which will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, Banbridge, on Saturday, 4th June, 1938.

The speaker on the occasion will be the Rev. F. Munford, B.A., of Mountpottinger, and his subject will be "Religious Education: its aims and methods." Further particulars of the Conference will be forwarded to each church in due course. The programme appeared in the February issue.

Moneyrea.

The Moneyrea Dramatic Society performed the Comedy, "The Early Bird," n March 25th and 26th, in the Lyttle Memorial School. On both nights the building was filled to its utmost capacity, many had to be turned away.

The Comedy is written in the County Derry dialect and is in Three Acts. The acting was worthy of every praise, each character was interpreted true to type and all of the members taking part are to be congratulated on their excellent performances, which were among the most successful and enjoyable given by the Society. The cast was as follows:

Daniel Duff, a farmer and widower, James Maxwell; Charlie Simpson, a veterinary surgeon, Ed. Fisher; Archbald McCreedy, a youngish farmer, Frank Maxwell; Jamie Frew, servant-man to Dan Duff, Robert Hill; Susan Duff, Daniel Duff's niece, Miss M. Strain; Rose Madill, an attractive widow, Miss M. McFarland; Mrs. Gordon, the minister's wife, Mrs. Davies; Lizzie, servant-girl to Mrs. Madill, Mrs. Curran. The proceeds were in aid of Church funds.

Newry.

The Annual Report of this congregation, approved at the Congregational Meeting held on Wednesday, 6th April, shows excellent progress. The combined efforts of Minister and members in the spirit of goodwill and friendship, which is a feature of the Church, have been responsible for the following encouraging facts:—Membership doubled in 3½ years: Income from the Envelope Scheme at a new high level: and position in the community life well improved.

During the past year the Church building was renovated and electric light was installed, at a cost of £110. A further £70 is being spent at present on the complete re-decoration of the Church, and all this money has been raised. Friends in the denomination will have an opportunity of seeing recent improvemeets at the Special Re-opening Service to be held on Sunday, 15th May, at 3-30 p.m. when the preacher will be the Rev. Dr. A. L .Agnew, of York Street, Belfast. Tea will be served to visitors, and their presence in good numbers will be a great encouragement to this growing Church.

The growth of recent years has been quiet and steady and gives confidence for the future. If a proper Hall can be built, members believe it will be possible to have a regular congregation of even

greater dimensions than at present in Newry; for there are many people in and around the Border town who only require even the least introduction to our Body to find that its position is their own.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CHURCH CHOIR'S RECORDS.

(To the Editor of the "N.S. Presbyterian).

Dear Sir,—Mr. Orr's article on the music of the First Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast is not as correct as it might be. During the last six months I have studied closely the minutes of the Congregation from 1760 to 1841, and with particular reference to musical matters.

According to my researches Wm. Hughes was re-appointed as precentor in 1819. He had previously been in the service of the congregation from 1808 to 1818. No recommendation therefore was necessary, but Mr. John Bunting of the Parish Church musical committee had been asked when Hughes was free to leave their employment.

Hughes died in 1827, not 1828; and Mary Hughes, though she may have been his daughter, was not the first paid lady singer. This was Mrs. Ann Crooks, who served as a treble during 1818-19 at £10 per annum.

The compilation of Psalmody was not one of the last acts of Hughes. This had already been done by him in 1815; but, it was recopied by him in 1825, when he included five new tunes for which he was suitably paid by the congregation.

I have in my possession a tune book compiled by B. Hobson Carroll in which two of Hughes' tunes are published for the first time. It also contains in manuscript a double chant of W. S. Burnett, who preceded Carroll in the position of organist.

I would be grateful for any infomation which would throw light on the musical portion of our services in the First Church, and particularly of the pre-organ period—before '853. Yours faithfully,

WM. H. McCAFFERTY.

34 Wyndham Street,
Belfast, 5th April, 1938.

OBITUARY.

Capt. Lowry.

The late Captain Lowry was a well-known figure in Newcastle, prominent in local activities and a staunch supporter of Clough congregation, where he and his wife worshipped for many years. The family burying ground is at Killinchy, but owing to his long connection with Clough they have both been interred at Clough. He had voyaged in Eastern seas and came to Newcastle about thirty years ago. His family were old Non-subscribers. His brother Nelson was a faithful and devoted member of Downpatrick, and treasurer for many years. Another brother and his family were faithful members of First Church, Belfast. The following is taken from "The Down Recorder":—

The remains of Captain W. H. K. Lowry, J.P., of Newcastle, were laid to rest on Tuesday, in Clough churchyard, there being a large cortege of friends. Rev. J. Keers officiated at the house. At Clough, in the Presbyterian Non-subscribing church, the service was conducted by the former minister there, Rev. J. Dare Davies, and Rev. J. Shaw Brown delivered the address:

'The long habit of living indisposeth a man for dying,' said Sir Thomas Browne in sorrow, and then, turning his face toward eternity, left this life with little regret. Much the same might be said of dear old Captain Lowry, whose mortal remains we are now going to lay away in mother earth.

His long life of 84 years had not taken from him the love of life here on earth; he had a human satisfaction and joy in meeting the friends of his youth and later years at the Golf Club and in his home. But life on the quarter-deck had also taught him to recognise and respect the voice of authority, and when the great Commander gave the order to depart he obeyed without a murmur or a regret. Our meeting together is an occasion when it is natural to think of life as a voyage from one world to another. Poets and idealists have often spoken of it as a voyage. You will remember Tennyson's well-known farewell ode:

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning at the bar
When I put out to sea.

There was no moaning at the bar when the Captain heard the call and put out to sea on the last long voyage.

Even more fitting on this solemn occasion are the words of the Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, who was also one of the wisest philosophers of the ancient world. At the end of his long vigil at the helm of the State he wrote this entry in his log-book: 'Thou hast embarked— thou hast made thy voyage —thou hast arrived. Depart thou then, satisfied, for He also who releases thee is satisfied.' These are noble words, which have not been without their echo throughout the ages.

I do not know how it is with you, but I frankly confess that with the passing of the years and the passing away of old friends this world becomes for me a world of lengthening shadows and ebbing tides, and it is difficult to know whether it is more blessed to be alive with you here or to be dead with the Captain there. It comforts me, however, to know that I am not alone in my perplexity of soul. Socrates, the Greek philosopher, whose death is a classic memory, and whose ugly but smiling face still cheers the darkness of closing years, on the eve of his own death said to his sorrowing friends: 'I go to death and you go to life, but which of us goes to the better place, God alone doth know.'

These, after all, are but ancient landmarks in the pilgrimage of the soul. We are no longer in the ancient world of the Greeks and the Romans. We live in an age in which Christianity has lightened our darkness. A greater than Socrates has revealed to us the more excellent way in the words of our Master on the cross. 'Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.' In these words you have the Christian assurance. Death cannot take us out of our Father's hands nor separate us from the love of God.

And now a word or two about the departed. In his retirement as a gentleman of leisure he was known and respected by rich and poor alike in the town of his adoption. As Dr. Magill said to me on the way here: 'In Newcastle he was an institution.' Newcastle will miss the kindly and genial man who came home from Eastern seas over 30 years ago to settle in their midst, and took a friendly interest in the life and well-being of his neighbours without regard either to church or creed. It is not for me, a comparative stranger, to attempt to describe, in the presence of his old and intimate friends, the many good qualities of the departed. These are sacred memories, which might be sullied by a too great publicity in the hour of his departure.

But I cannot close to-day without, in the name of this church, expressing our deep sense of loss, not only financial loss, but also social and moral loss. We have learned to look up to him with admiration and respect through the long years he worshipped with us, and we thank God for his faithful devotion to our little country church. And now, in the providential order, the hour has come when he must needs say unto us all his Nunc Dimittis, that sweetest and most human benediction, 'Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.'

William Gault, Templepatrick.

The church records, with deep regret, the passing of William Gault, a faithful member and substantial subscriber. Mr. Gault belonged to a family that has been associated with the church for several generations. A man of quick thought and ways, William Gault was an example of those good souls who do good by stealth and blush to have it known.

The Revs. Alfred Turner and A. G. Easton conducted the funeral services. The deceased was interred at the old Burial Ground, Templepatrick, on April 12th.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

John xvii. 3—"The knowledge of God *is* eternal life"

Hebrews vi. 8—"Son though he was, he learned by all he suffered how to obey, and by being thus perfected he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

ULSTER UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.

It was reported to the annual meeting of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association, held in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast, that the committee had taken up the important task of preparing a new catechism. The existing catechism had come to the end of its last printing, and the committee were sanguine that the new one would be welcomed by a larger number of the teachers and ministers than had previously used such means of imparting Christian principles to their young people. The task was nearing completion.

The Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew presided at the meeting.

The Association's credit balance had been much depleted, it was stated by the highly-rated value of their premises, which combined with a high rent, handicapped their work. Members were not the only parties using the Depository. The Postal Mission work had had to be discontinued.

The report paid a notable tribute to Rev. A. L. Agnew's sermons at the annual services in York Street and First House, and thanks were returned to York Street congregation for their hospitality.

Moving the adoption of the report, Dr. Agnew said Unitarians stood for liberty above all things. The only organisation they had, however, for propaganda was that modest little Association, and he urged that it should therefore be a more living organisation than it was. More use should be made of the Depository in Rosemary Street. It should be frequently visited by their church members.

The Rev. E. Savell Hicks (Moderator) said the Association should receive the wholehearted support of everyone who had their denominational future at heart. In their day and generation the old lines of demarcation had moved a great deal. Many had been impressed by the progressive movement of thought along the lines they (the Unitarians) had been pursuing for generations. In times gone by although they ecountered some severe theological opposition, in these days it was not nearly so frequent or so savage. The doctrines they had re-interpreted two generations ago, they now found taken and used and phrases common to them were being adopted in orthodox literature and sermons.

He appealed for a bigger spirit in these days, and said modern Christianity should get together for the sake of the world in a fuller way than in the past.

Mr. Savell Hicks said he though they believed more in the incarnation than some others, because they made it universal.

Thanks were accorded to Mr. Hicks for his addresses during the week-end in Belfast, on the motion of Mr. W. Andrews, seconded by Mr. W. McRoberts. "Belfast News-Letter."

"DOCTRINE IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND."

This is the title of the report of the Commission appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 1922, and published in 1938. The Commission met for its first session at University College, Oxford, in September, 1923, and the list shows that its members were among the ablest scholars in England. The report occupies 220 pages, about the size of those of "The Hibbert Journal" and 22 pages of appendices contributed by individual members.

A book of this description requires to be taken up with a certain amount of respect, and not in a light critical attitude of mind simply because it emanates from the Church of England. It is a book which in days to come may be taken up by our ministers and laity, when necessity arises for obtaining correct data concerning doctrine as it is now held and noting the advance there has been made, and the tendency in the future. One thing is clear, and that is that the Greek Church has now a greater influence on the Church of England, than has the Roman, and that means wider latitude and freedom in thinking. "The Shorter Catechism" and the other "Standards of Faith" of the Presbyterian Church" are simply not in it. There is no place for such a statement as "All mankind are under God's wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself and to the pains of hell for ever." The 39 Articles upon which the "Shorter Catechism" was really based

and upon which the Evangelical and ultra-Protestant sections have laid such a strong emphasis, are, in their influence upon the life and thought of the Church, inevitably far less formative than the Prayer Book; for the constant worship of any group of Christians may exercise upon them a far more pervasive and penetrating influence than any formula to which the worshipping congregation has no frequent occasion to refer." The function of the Commission has been as best they could to handle the question before them "in the light of reason, of modern knowledge, and of that universal Christian tradition to which the Reformers themselves appealed."

Every point of Church Doctrine receives due attention. Concerning the Episcopate the report lays down that "the Historic Episcopate has a position as an organ of continuity which belongs, in fact to no other order of ministry in that it early became the one recognised organ for transmitting the ministerial commission and that for more than a thousand years it alone held the field."

While Baptism and the Lord's Supper (or the Eucharist) receive attention so do 'those five commonly called Sacraments.' The one on "Unction" implies that a Sacrament of Healing will one day come to the fore. Real Presence, Virtualism, Receptionism, Transubstantation, Consubstantiation are all dealt with very fully. The book is worth reading for the sake of its "style" alone, and deserves to have its place as a book of reference.

DROMORE.

Congregational Social and Prize Distribution.

There was a crowded attendance at the annual congregational soiree and Sunday School prize distribution in the Rampart Street Schoolroom on Thursday evening, March 31.

At the commencement tea was served by the following ladies: Mrs. A .Davison, Mrs. C. M. Baxter, Miss Hobart, Mrs. J. Russell, Mrs. E. Boal, Miss M. Fairley, Miss N. Clarke, Miss M. Clarke, Miss K. Wilkinson and Miss M. Spence, who were assisted by Messrs. F. Russell, J. Russell, C. Wilkinson, R. Gibson, S. Wilkinson, J. Murphy, J. Clarke, E. Boal, jun.; J. Hodgen and W. Flannagan.

The door stewards were Messrs. David Wilkinson and David Dickson.

Following ample justice to a host of good things, Rev. Alfred Davison, minister of the congregation, took the chair. He said his first duty was to express his own and the Committee's very great pleasure at seeing such a large and representative gathering present, and secondly to express the pleasure they felt from the fact that they had with them that night many people who were connected with other congregations, and to them they extended a very hearty welcome. Their social was an impressive demonstration of the unity that existed between Church and School. They were indeed a very happy family that night—with so many young people there to entertain them and to give them a taste of their quality

The accompaniments were played by Miss Isobel Johnston, Miss I. Sofley, Miss Nan Johnston, and Mr. E. S. Mills, Banbridge.

At the conclusion of the programme the Chairman, who is superintendent of the Sunday School, said they had come to the main item, namely the S.S. prize distribution. He was pleased, he said, to be able to report that the school was progressing satisfactorily; with regard to the work of the past year it compared very favourably with that of any year during the time that he had been minister of the Church.

The prize-winners numbered 36; of these 5 were special prizes, 17 were first class, 6 were second class and 8 were third class.

Mr. Davidson then presented the awards, the recipients being warmly applauded.

At this juncture a pleasing little ceremony took place, when Company Sergeant-Major William J. Russell and his wife (nee Mary J .Gill), Gallows Street, on the occasion of their 35th anniversary of their wedding, presented Mr. and Mrs. Davison with two boxes of linen handkerchiefs.

The singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

REVIEW.

Search for To-morrow—Rom Landau. 1938, 10/6. Publishers, Nicholson & Watson, 7 Paternoster Row, London, E.C. 4.

This book records the travels and impressions of the author in most of the countries of the Near and Middle East, which ought to be regarded as a continent of their own. "Had religion been completely obliterated from Turkish life or was it flowing through some new channel? What did the men who were shaping the destinies of the East look like, what was their manner of speech, how far did their policies reflect their true beliefs? And last but not least, were the lands of the Pyramids, the lands in which Moses and Jesus and Muhammed were born, the lands of the Eleusinian Mysteries and of the conversion of Paul, likely to fall victims to Western materialism or would they be the cradle of yet another spiritual rebirth?"

In Egypt, there is the oldest university in existence, El Aghar in Cairo, the principal religious university of the Muslims all over the world, founded over 1,000 years ago, the principal work of which is the compilation of books on religious law. There is a new secular university, but, it is hampered for the lack of funds; thus foreign professors who are very desirable at the University, cannot be afforded. One of the first effects of the new Egyptian independence will be that many Egyptians will realize for the first time what Great Britain has done for them. Lord Cromer's work illustrates how in the face of great difficulties, he put Egypt on a sound financial basis, gave it justice and an efficient administration.

A conversation with the head of the Muhammaden religion in Egypt, Sheikh El Maroghi gives an insight into Islam, which is only to be got by such a contact. He was asked about the King of Egypt, Farouk: "Isn't he genuinely religious?" "Yes, the King is very religious." "What does your Excellency regard as the chief problem of the future of Egypt?" "Education and once again education." Hassanein Pasha the King's tutor and Governor of the Royal Household brought Rom Landau as near to the King, as it was possible for him to get, as the King does not receive visitors. It was on the eve of the departure of the King and Royal Family for the coronation of King George VI. During the dispersal of the farewell party, Rom Landau entered into a deep personal conversation with the tutor, with these words "So you probably agree that the most vital religion is one which reveals itself in an intensely personal communion with the divine—when we seem to touch something inexplicable beyond ourselves?" "Indeed I do. I know what you mean, how well I know it! . . . Some years ago, when I was on an expedition in the Libyan Desert, I had a similar mystical experience, not once, not twice. . . I had it continually! While I had it, the experience gave me both power and peace."

After that on to Arabia, which is now several kingdoms, as in reality it has always been, the cleavages between the tribes being very marked; the tribal differences are also those of the sects, which are temperamental; fanaticism rises to white heat. A *haj* is a pilgrimage, and *haji* are pilgrims; but there are times when the uniting powers of Islam reveal themselves as stronger than the dividing ones. "*Allah Akbar*," God the Almighty, are the first words of a Muslim prayer. A week or fortnight at Mecca is for most of the pilgrims a heavenly dream. It gives them daily communion with God. The central point to which all worship is directed is the black stone the Kaaba "given by Gabriel to Abraham" which is covered by a black pall with gold lettering the *kiswa*, (renewed every year), in which the longing of the Muslim world have been enshrined. "*La Ilaha Ill'a Allah*," there is no god but God.

Ibu Sa-ud, one of the chief kings of Arabia, Sultan of Nejd had before, been Imam, combining attributes of the Fuhrer of the Germans or the Duce of the Italians. Rom Landau met him by appointment outside Mecca, where a whole camp, with magnificent tents, was made ready for the reception of Rom Landau. Other states in Arabia were visited; such as Yemen at the southern entrance to Red Sea, where perhaps the tribes are the most fierce and bloodthirsty, yet their Prince has the features of an ascetic saint. Then on through Palestine, observing Jews and Arabs, through Syria to the Republic of Lebanon; then Baghdad. Then a survey of Turkey in Asia; then to Greece, where he had a long conversation with King George II, who had found himself obliged to introduce strong measures and though averse to dictatorship, yet found that he had to agree to that form. The impression he gave Rom Landau was one which appealed to him more deeply than any other in Greece. "His voice was the genuine voice of the spirit, it was that same voice that I had heard outside the palace

of the King of Egypt." The King of Greece has great faith in the creative power of prayer and is strongly determined to live up to his ideals. He is trying to rule with purity of spirit. The chapters on Bulgaria are full of interest. It is remarkable the hold that Lord Byron, in Childe Harold, has on these countries. King Boris is much more popular than Ferdinand his father, who made the monarchy in his day, unpopular; but, Boris has been able to live that down, and he studies his people, and is a hard, conscientious worker, and his decision to hold a General Election in March this year shows his aversion to dictatorship.

Yugoslavia has strongly its own nationality as indicated by its monuments, which express abundance of energy. In no Balkan country is Communism so widespread as in Yugoslavia; but ardent Communists, who have joined the Y.M.C.A. have forgotten their Communism, in their discovery of practical Christianity. But nowhere was such official inefficiency met with, as in Yugoslavia. Thus in a beautiful and fascinating volume we have placed before us by a keen observer, the survey of new nations that have sprung to self consciousness in the last twenty years, and revealing the responsibility resting on the Western Powers; and the tendency of the new religious spirit, apart from the forms it has yet to build.—ULLIN.

BODEL-MACKENZIE FUND.

The report for 1937 has just been issued. There was no election of new benficiaries held in September, no new names were added to those receiving grants, and those on the list were re-elected. A balance of £70 14s. 0d. is shown. Three congregations contributed—Belfast (First), £5 13s. 5d.; Holywood, £14 12s.; Moneyrea, £4 16s. 6d. At the present time there are 28 beneficiaries—5, £20 per annum; 9, £15; 14, £10. One item is given —"Rebecca Bodel (deceased), Sale of 'Goat' and 'Dub' Inns, £26 15s. 7d.—which represents the refund of a subscription given by the late Miss Bodel for the purpose of extinguishing the licenses of these two inns, which gained unenviable notoriety in the days of "bona-fide travellers." Assistant Secretary, Rev. D. J. Williams, Killinchy.

June, 1938, number published on 28th May. Copy sent in before May 20th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

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